

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 29 MAY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce that Bushy Roode, ZS6M, previously ZS6YQ, became silent key on the 23rd May. Bushy never regained consciousness after he suffered a stroke more than a month ago. Bushy was an ardent DXer and last year he changed his call sign and was working towards another DXCC as ZS6M. He was a staunch supporter of the SARL and apart from his family, he will be sadly missed by SARLNEWS and his listeners for his regular relays of the SARL bulletins on 3 695 kHz. Our most sincere condolences to his wife Maaïke, their children and grand children, other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

THIS EVENING INTECHNET TO DISCUSS "WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO AMATEUR RADIO?"

RAE RESULTS

MARK SHUTTLEWORTH TO BE THE HIGHLIGHT ON YOUTH DAY

FEEDBACK ON WESTERN CAPE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARLNEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution reaches Sarlnews is to place it in the correct place on web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. There is no guarantee that your contribution will reach Sarlnews or be included in a bulletin if it is sent in any other way or later than Thursday evenings. It will also be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail

THIS EVENING INTECNET TO DISCUSS WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO AMATEUR RADIO?

Intecnet will be on the air this evening and will discuss the question of what attracted you to amateur radio. Join us for a brainstorming session by beginning to ask the questions “why did I get involved in Amateur Radio”. “What will attract the young people of today”? If you have young people in your club invite them to join in.

Intecnet follows the President’s Net at 20:00. The President’s net starts at 19:00.

Clubs are invited to link their repeater to the network. Send details of repeater coverage and the telephone number to be linked to the conference bridge to armi@sarl.org.za before 12 noon today, Sunday 29 May. Unfortunately cell phones and Telkom prepaid phones cannot be connected.

RAE RESULTS

The results of the May 2005 RAE have been available on the web site of the SARL since Wednesday. A letter which contains all the particulars of the results will be posted to all candidates shortly. Candidates to whom a callsign has been assigned are reminded that an agreement exists between the SARL and ICASA, whereby you may use your callsign immediately.

There was a pass percentage of 86% in the examination.

Congratulations to Mr I H N Gibson of Cresta who achieved the highest mark in this examination. He passed with an average mark of 91% and now boasts with the callsign ZR6IFS.

The youngest candidate to pass the examination was the 9 year old Elandré van der Walt of Bloemfontein, with his 11 year old brother Luan as the second youngest to pass. Both of them are, however, first going to pass the 12 wpm Morse Code test before applying for a callsign. SARL News has learnt that their very proud father, Bernie ZS4TX has already arranged for the purchase of new radios!

The SARL wishes to thank all invigilators and examination centres for their co-operation in having the examination run smoothly.

The next RAE will take place on 17 November 2005.

CAPE ACADEMY STUDENTS SUCCESSFUL IN THE RAE

The Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre has been running a development initiative to prepare students and a teacher from the Cape Academy of Mathematics, Science and Technology for the Radio Amateur’s Examination. The Cape Academy is a school that serves previously disadvantaged communities in the Western Cape. Thirteen students and one teacher wrote the exam on 19th May. The teacher and all but three of the students passed the examination.

The course convener, Andrew ZS1AN, said that he is pleased with the result and hopes that the three pupils who did not pass will write again in November. He hopes to set up an amateur radio club at the school with operational HF and VHF stations. The school has agreed to provide a room for the clubhouse and space to erect antennas. Andrew is appealing for donations of any second-hand equipment, preferably in working order, to help establish the amateur radio station at the school.

Anyone wishing to donate or sponsor equipment is asked to contact Andrew ZS1AN at telephone (083) 462 8309 or email zs1an@qsl.net. All donations will be greatly appreciated and thankfully acknowledged.

MARK SHUTTLEWORTH TO BE THE HIGHLIGHT ON YOUTH DAY

South Africa's first and only astronaut, Mark Shuttleworth will be talking to the youth via amateur Radio on 16 June 2005 as part of the SARL Youth Day event. The SA Amateur Radio Trust is sponsoring an Intecnet type operation with Mark Shuttleworth as the guest. Mark will be joining the network from his London office. A prominent sports icon has also been invited to participate. The network will operate from 10:00 -12:00 with Mark featuring in the 11:00 - 12:00 slot.

Clubs are invited to join the network by linking their repeaters to the conference bridge. To request a port, send an Email to armi@sarl.org.za with details of the repeater, such as frequency and coverage as well as the telephone number to be linked. No cell phones or prepaid phone can be connected.

All requests must be received by 3 June 2005 to ensure that your details are included on the web and in media releases.

Clubs setting up stations in public areas such as shopping malls can register by sending their email address and details of where they will be operating from to armi@sarl.org to ensure that they receive regular updates on the event and are included in media publicity.

COMMUNICATION WITH CLUBS.

From Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ, Secretary of the SARL.

At the AGM of the SARL on the 9th of April, the President of the SARL proposed a structure where volunteers in each division would assist Councillors of the SARL in their portfolios. These would be people with an interest in a particular field which fits into a particular portfolio of one or more of the councillors.

To facilitate communications between councillors and amateurs in general, Richard, ZS2CLI, has installed new software on the SARL website which makes it very easy for amateurs to communicate with councillors and with each other.

To see this Forum work, visit www.sarl.org.za and click on Forums. You will notice that the forum is divided into portfolios or categories if you like, where

anything from antennas, repeaters, technical matters, erection of towers, and other subjects are discussed. This Forum is free from the rubbish we have had on the previous forum and is a pleasure to visit.

Recently the President of the SARL held a teleconference with chairmen of clubs for which I had to assemble an address list. I consulted the list of clubs on the SARL website and managed to contact most of the clubs, but found that some data is up to five years old, and some of those clubs I failed to contact. If your club details on the SARL website is not up to date, kindly update it so that we can use it to keep you informed on amateur affairs.

There is no news on the National Body, I regret to say. I saw on TV news that the minister of communications is busy visiting neighbouring countries with the view to get communication standards in line. This is no doubt a big task, perhaps that is why a National Body has not been appointed.

SARL IARU FUND GETTING CLOSER TO THE R13 000 TARGET

The SARL- IARU fund this week stands at R11 936. Thanks to the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre for their R500 contribution and to P M Brown, ZS5ACT, and Frans Oeschger, ZR1FJO, for their contributions. Your support is much appreciated.

A full list of donors can be found on the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust website at www.amateurradio.org.za.

24 GHz RECORD

On May 26 at 10:55 CAT ZS6AXT and ZS6JON/p made a contact in the 24 GHz band over the distance of 50,4 km thus establishing a new ZS record on this band. The old record was 45 km. Signal reports were 599 on CW and 59 on SSB.

Equipment used on both sides were transverters with 2 W output and 30 cm dishes.

ASSISTANCE FOR QSL BUREAU REQUIRED

The QSL Bureau needs assistance in sorting the DX QSL Cards. Interested Persons, please contact 011 675-2393 or email to admin@sarl.org.za Any Volunteers???

FEEDBACK ON WESTERN CAPE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

25 HAMNET members in the Western Cape took part in the first ever joint Military/HAMNET emergency radio communications exercise, called Exercise Double Barrel.

The exercise commander was Dr. Johan Johnson, ZR1JHN, 2IC 71 Signal Unit and the participants were trained and briefed by Flight Sergeant Pierre Tromp, ZR1PDT, the training NCO of 71 Signal Unit.

The scenario was played out in the Winelands area, with an earthquake devastating the area. Four joint Military/HAMNET callsigns were deployed to Tulbach, Prince Alfred Hamlet, Worcester and De Doorns, with the exercise being driven and managed by Fire and Rescue Officers and the Joint Operations Centre situated in Rawsonville, while being supported by Tactical Headquarters Western Cape.

The exercise provided the ideal platform for military signallers and HAMNET members to operate side-by-side and learn from each other.

This exercise was also authorised by ICASA, allowing military signallers the opportunity to operate on amateur radio frequencies while being supervised by radio amateurs for the duration of the exercise.

The exercise was also monitored by members of Disaster Management.

During the debrief it was felt that we had exceeded our objectives and all are looking forward to the next event.

AGM OF THE EAST RAND RADIO CLUB

Notice is herewith given of the 68th Annual General Meeting of the East Rand Radio Club (formerly: East Rand Branch of the SARL) on 20 August 2005 at 14:00 SAST, to be held at the Clubhouse in Springs.

All motions should be submitted to the committee no later than 13 August 2005.

Nominations for committee members are welcomed.

ZS1OAR HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL FOX HUNT

ZS1OAR (Overberg Amateur Radio Club) held a very successful fox hunt in Hermanus on the 21st May, which was well supported by the club members. This was the first time that the club had presented such an event and everyone enjoyed it very much.

We would like to congratulate Johan, ZS1WC, and Doepie, ZS1HK, who were the first to find the “fox”. They used a handheld set with a leatherman antenna which lead them straight to the “fox”. A special word of thanks to Matian, ZS1MAT, Riaan, ZR1RVN, and Doepie, ZS1HK who contributed to the construction of the “fox”.

DIARY OF EVENTS

This evening 29 May - President’s net and INTECHNET;

31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition;

16 June - SARL Youth Day;

20 August - SARL Technology Open Day;

20 August - East Rand Amateur Radio Club AGM.

The SARL invites you to listen today at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 810, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz. Please note that as from next Sunday 5 June, the 16 metre band slot will change from 17 810 kHz to 17 565 kHz. Over the past few weeks a lot of interference has been experienced on 17 810 necessitating the change. Please check the new frequency of 17 565 kHz during today's transmission and send reports to armi@sarl.org.za. The frequency should be clear.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX